

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-31 were pending. In this amendment, claim 20 is amended, and no claims are canceled or added. Thus, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-31 will remain pending.

Allowed claims

Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 1-19 and 23-28.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), Cha

Claims 20-22 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cha (US 6,831,814).

Claim 20 is allowable as Cha does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 20. For example, claim 20 recites:

at least one supporting structure extending from the first and third supporting areas to a leading edge side of the flexure tongue, wherein the leading edge side consists of the leading edge of the flexure tongue and side edges of the flexure tongue existing between a center of a mounting position of said slider and the leading edge, and wherein the at least one supporting structure is a sole structure for supporting said flexure tongue,

wherein the first supporting area is supported by the load beam prior to the leading edge in a direction perpendicular to the leading edge, and wherein the third supporting area is supported by the load beam after a trailing edge of the flexure tongue along the perpendicular direction.

FIG. 6 of Cha shows a flexure body 103 with outriggers 121,123 that connect to a tab 110 at a proximal section 125. See Cha, col. 4 lines 30-49. FIG. 7 shows a side view of flexure body 103 connected to load beam 60. As shown in FIG. 7, a first section 101 of outrigger 123 is supported by the load beam 60 and a second section 117 extends in a proximal direction to proximal section 125. Id. Thus, the sections 115, 117 extend from respective sections 100,101, which are both lateral to a leading edge of the tab 110. In contrast, claim 20 recites "*wherein the first supporting area is supported by the load beam prior to the leading edge in a direction perpendicular to the leading edge,*" and "*wherein the third supporting area is*

supported by the load beam after a trailing edge of the flexure tongue along the perpendicular direction."

Note that sections 115, 117 do not extend from flexure body 103. Thus, flexure body 103 is not a supporting area as recited in claim 20. Even if flexure body was a supporting area, it would be only one supporting area, whereas claim 20 recites a first and a third supporting area. For at least this same reason, FIG. 8 also does not teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, Cha does not teach or suggest "*at least one supporting structure extending from the first and third supporting areas to a leading edge side of the flexure tongue,*" as recited in claim 20.

For at least these reasons, claim 20 is allowable over Cha. As claim 20 is allowable, claims 21-22 and 29-31 which depend therefrom are also allowable for at least the same rationale.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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